

Appln. No. 10/688,620

Amendment dated February 22, 2005

Reply to Office Action mailed September 22, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A telescopic flag pole assembly
- 2 comprising:
- 3 a bottom segment, at least one intermediate segment, and a top
- 4 segment, each of said segments comprising a rigid elongate
- 5 cylindrical tube of a size to fit telescopically within the next
- 6 adjacent lower tube;
- 7 a plurality of sleeve assemblies to facilitate telescopic
- 8 movement of the adjacent tubes, each one of said sleeve assemblies
- 9 being positioned between an associated pairing of a relatively lower
- 10 segment and a relatively higher segment; and
- 11 a plurality of biasing means, each one of said biasing means
- 12 urging an associate one of said segments toward an extended
- 13 position;
- 14 wherein each one of said plurality of sleeve assemblies further
- 15 comprises:
- 16 an upper sleeve member positionable to abut a top edge
- 17 of said relatively lower one of said segments; and
- 18 a lower sleeve member positionable to abut a lower edge
- 19 of said relatively higher one of said segments;
- 20 wherein said upper sleeve member and said lower sleeve
- 21 member are configured to selectively engage each other such
- 22 that said lower sleeve member is capable of being maintained
- 23 in a static position relative to said upper sleeve member, a
- 24 locking slot being defined on said upper sleeve member at
- 25 position in a lower portion of a perimeter wall, a locking tab

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26 being defined on said lower sleeve member and extending from
27 an upper portion of a perimeter wall, said lower sleeve
28 member having a central longitudinal axis, a reference plane
29 extending perpendicular to said central longitudinal axis;
30 wherein said locking slot is defined by a slot edge of
31 said perimeter wall, said slot edge extending at an inclined
32 angle with respect to said reference plane, and wherein said
33 locking tab is defined by a tab edge of said perimeter wall,
34 said tab edge extending at said inclined angle with respect to
35 said reference plane such that rotating said upper sleeve
36 member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a first
37 direction engages said locking tab into said locking slot and
38 rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower
39 sleeve member in a second direction disengages said locking
40 tab from said locking slot.

2. (Cancelled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1,
2 wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises a lower stop
3 portion, said lower stop portion engaging a bottom portion of an
4 associated one of said biasing means associated with said relatively
5 higher segment.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1,
2 wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises a an upper stop
3 portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top portion of an
4 associated one of said biasing means associated with said relatively
5 lower segment.

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1 5. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1,
2 wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises a ledge portion
3 for engaging a bottom edge of said relatively higher segment.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1,
2 wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises:
3 a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a
4 bottom portion of an associated one of said biasing means
5 associated with said relatively higher segment;
6 a an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top
7 portion of an associated one of said biasing means associated with
8 said relatively lower segment; and
9 a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said relatively
10 higher segment.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1,
2 wherein said upper sleeve member further comprises a lip portion,
3 said lip portion abutting a top edge of said relatively lower
4 segment.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

1 10. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said biasing
2 means is a spring member.

1 11. (Original) The assembly of claim 10, wherein said spring
2 member has a compressed overall length of approximately 9 inches
3 and a fully extended overall length of approximately 90 inches.

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1 12. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a
2 stop ring member positionable in a bottom portion of said bottom
3 segment, said stop ring engaging a bottom portion of a first one of
4 said plurality of biasing means.

13. (Cancelled)

1 14. (Currently Amended) A telescopic flag pole assembly
2 comprising:
3 a bottom segment, at least one intermediate segment, and a top
4 segment, each of said segments comprising a rigid elongate
5 cylindrical tube of a size to fit telescopically within the next
6 adjacent lower tube;
7 a plurality of sleeve assemblies to facilitate telescopic
8 movement of the adjacent tubes, each one of said sleeve assemblies
9 being positioned between an associated pairing of a relatively lower
10 segment and a relatively higher segment;
11 a plurality of biasing means, each one of said biasing means
12 urging an associate one of said segments toward an extended
13 position;
14 wherein each one of said plurality of sleeve assemblies further
15 comprises:
16 an upper sleeve member positionable to abut a top edge
17 of said relatively lower one of said segments;
18 a lower sleeve member positionable to abut a lower edge
19 of said relatively higher one of said segments;
20 wherein said upper sleeve member and said lower sleeve
21 member are configured to selectively engage each other such
22 that said lower sleeve member is capable of being maintained
23 in a static position relative to said upper sleeve member, a
24 locking slot being defined on said upper sleeve member at

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25 position in a lower portion of a perimeter wall, a locking tab
26 being defined on said lower sleeve member and extending from
27 an upper portion of a perimeter wall, said lower sleeve
28 member having a central longitudinal axis, a reference plane
29 extending perpendicular to said central longitudinal axis;

30 wherein said locking slot is defined by a slot edge of
31 said perimeter wall, said slot edge extending at an inclined
32 angle with respect to said reference plane, and wherein said
33 locking tab is defined by a tab edge of said perimeter wall,
34 said tab edge extending at said inclined angle with respect to
35 said reference plane such that rotating said upper sleeve
36 member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a first
37 direction engages said locking tab into said locking slot and
38 rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower
39 sleeve member in a second direction disengages said locking
40 tab from said locking slot;

41 said lower sleeve member further comprises:

42 a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a
43 bottom portion of an associated one of said biasing means
44 associated with said relatively higher segment;

45 a an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging
46 a top portion of an associated one of said biasing means
47 associated with said relatively lower segment;

48 a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said
49 relatively higher segment;

50 said upper sleeve member further comprises a lip
51 portion, said lip portion abutting a top edge of said relatively
52 lower segment;

53 ~~said upper sleeve member selectively engages said lower~~
54 ~~sleeve member whereby said lower sleeve member is~~

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55 ~~maintained in a static position relative to said upper sleeve~~
56 ~~member;~~
57 ~~said upper sleeve member having a locking slot portion~~
58 ~~positioned in a lower portion of a perimeter wall;~~
59 ~~said lower sleeve member having a locking tab portion~~
60 ~~extending from an upper portion of a perimeter wall;~~
61 ~~said locking tab portion slideably engaging said locking~~
62 ~~slot portion whereby rotating said upper sleeve member with~~
63 ~~respect to said lower sleeve member in a first direction~~
64 ~~engages said locking tab into said locking slot and rotating~~
65 ~~said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve~~
66 ~~member in a second direction disengages said locking tab~~
67 ~~from said locking slot;~~
68 ~~each of said plurality of biasing means is~~comprising a spring
69 member;
70 a stop ring member positionable in a bottom portion of said
71 bottom segment, said stop ring engaging a bottom portion of a first
72 one of said plurality of biasing means; and
73 ~~a plurality of retaining means, each one of said plurality of~~
74 ~~retaining means being associated with one of said segments, each~~
75 ~~one of said retaining means selectively securing said segment in a~~
76 ~~non-extended position.~~

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1 15. (Currently Amended) A telescopic flag pole assembly
2 comprising:
3 a bottom segment, and a top segment, each of said segments
4 comprising a rigid elongate cylindrical tube, said top segment being
5 of a size to fit telescopically within said bottom segment;
6 a sleeve assembly to facilitate telescopic movement of said
7 tubes, said sleeve assembly being positioned between said bottom
8 segment and said top segment;
9 a biasing means urging said top ~~segments~~ segment toward an
10 extended position;
11 said sleeve assembly further comprises:
12 an upper sleeve member positionable to abut a top edge
13 of said bottom segment; and
14 a lower sleeve member positionable to abut a lower edge
15 of said top segment;
16 wherein said upper sleeve member and said lower sleeve
17 member are configured to selectively engage each other such
18 that said lower sleeve member is capable of being maintained
19 in a static position relative to said upper sleeve member, a
20 locking slot being defined on said upper sleeve member at
21 position in a lower portion of a perimeter wall, a locking tab
22 being defined on said lower sleeve member and extending from
23 an upper portion of a perimeter wall, said lower sleeve
24 member having a central longitudinal axis, a reference plane
25 extending perpendicular to said central longitudinal axis;
26 wherein said locking slot is defined by a slot edge of
27 said perimeter wall, said slot edge extending at an inclined
28 angle with respect to said reference plane, and wherein said
29 locking tab is defined by a tab edge of said perimeter wall,
30 said tab edge extending at said inclined angle with respect to

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31 said reference plane such that rotating said upper sleeve
32 member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a first
33 direction engages said locking tab into said locking slot and
34 rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower
35 sleeve member in a second direction disengages said locking
36 tab from said locking slot.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 15, wherein
2 said lower sleeve member further comprises:
3 a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a
4 bottom portion of said biasing means;
5 a an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top
6 portion of said biasing means; and
7 a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said top
8 segment.

1 17. (Original) The assembly of claim 15, wherein said upper
2 sleeve member further comprises a lip portion, said lip portion
3 abutting a top edge of said relatively lower segment.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

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1 20. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 15, further
2 comprising:
3 wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises:
4 a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a
5 bottom portion of said biasing means;
6 a an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top
7 portion of said biasing means;
8 a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said top
9 segment;
10 wherein said upper sleeve member further comprises a lip
11 portion, said lip portion abutting a top edge of said relatively lower
12 segment;
13 said upper sleeve member selectively engages said lower
14 sleeve member whereby said lower sleeve member is maintained in a
15 static position relative to said upper sleeve member;
16 said upper sleeve member having a locking slot portion
17 positioned in a lower portion of a perimeter wall;
18 said lower sleeve member having a locking tab portion
19 extending from an upper portion of a perimeter wall;
20 said locking tab portion slideably engaging said locking slot
21 portion whereby rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to
22 said lower sleeve member in a first direction engages said locking
23 tab into said locking slot and rotating said upper sleeve member
24 with respect to said lower sleeve member in a second direction
25 disengages said locking tab from said locking slot; and
26 a stop ring member positionable in a bottom portion of said
27 bottom segment, said stop ring engaging a bottom portion of said
28 biasing means; ~~and~~
29 ~~a retaining means for selectively securing said segment in a~~
30 ~~non extended position.~~

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1 21. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said inclined
2 angle is approximately 45 degrees with respect to said reference
3 plane.

1 22. (New) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said inclined
2 angle is approximately 45 degrees with respect to said reference
3 plane.

1 23. (New) The assembly of claim 15 wherein said inclined
2 angle is approximately 45 degrees with respect to said reference
3 plane.

1 24. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein an uppermost
2 edge of said locking tab defines a point that tapers wider toward a
3 lowermost portion of said locking tab.

1 25. (New) The assembly of claim 14 wherein an uppermost
2 edge of said locking tab defines a point that tapers wider toward a
3 lowermost portion of said locking tab.

1 26. (New) The assembly of claim 15 wherein an uppermost
2 edge of said locking tab defines a point that tapers wider toward a
3 lowermost portion of said locking tab.